

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application and stand rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,721,827 to Logan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,336 to Ladd et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,889 to Bromberg. It is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections are legally deficient on their face.

In particular, in addition to the irrelevancy of the Logan and Ladd references as previously discussed, the Examiner's additional reliance on Bromberg is misplaced, as Bromberg is not prior art against the claimed inventions.

Bromberg has an effective U.S. filing date of July 27, 1999, which is later than the claimed priority dates of the current application. Indeed, the current application is a 371 application of PCT/US99/22915 filed on October 1, 1999, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Applications 60/102,957 filed on 10/2/1998 and 60/117,595, filed on 1/27/1999. The PCT application and provisional applications were filed in English. Accordingly, the current application has an earlier effective US filing date than Bromberg, which renders the 103 rejections legally defective. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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